

**From:** Marcus Gaines  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 3:31pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Greetings. I am writing to oppose the terms of the tentative settlement of the Microsoft Antitrust case. I Believe that the settlement will not reduce or stop Microsoft Corporation's anti-competetive practices. One specific aspect with which I take issue is the fact that The PFJ does not require Microsoft to release documentation about the format of Microsoft Office documents. I am a technology specialist for a public school district. In my job I support systems both with and without Microsoft office. The lack of documentation of Microsoft Office's file formats makes it very difficult to find good ways to get our office software to intercommunicate. The decision by Microsoft Corp. to keep their file formats proprietary and closed is a clear attempt to discourage the use of other Office suites by leveraging the large market share enjoyed by Microsoft Office. If a competing suite will not read Microsoft file formats, its users are at a competetive disadvantage since they may have their communication with Microsoft Office users obfuscated. Thank you for your time and for your consideration of this matter.

-Marcus Gaines  
-Technology Systems Specialist  
-Windsor Unified School District  
-Windsor, Ca.

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